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Enjoy interactive science activities at grand opening event

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 27, 2007

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ENJOY INTERACTIVE SCIENCE ACTIVITIES AT GRAND OPENING EVENT

MISSOULA—

The public is invited to the free, family-friendly grand opening of The University of Montana's spectrUM Discovery Area from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7.

The event celebrates UM's new interactive science museum, located on campus in Skaggs Building Room 166.

Special activities will be offered throughout the day in the discovery area and under its Science Learning tents. Refreshments will be served, and there will be prizes and special performances.

Highlights will include the microscope area and the activity-packed Discovery Bench, as well as exhibit collections and a current San Francisco Exploratorium traveling exhibition called "Making Meaning." Through interactive exhibits, the exhibition pulls visitors toward new insights into the workings of nature, technology and their own minds.

Those who can't make the grand opening event can visit the spectrUM Discovery Area during its regular hours from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Thursdays or from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is \$3.50 per person. There is a discounted cost of \$3 per person for prearranged field-trip groups. "Making Meaning" will be at UM through Dec. 9.

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The interactive science area is sponsored by a Montana National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research grant to inspire a culture of learning and discovery for all.

In its first year of operation spectrUM Discovery Area launched a unique campaign to distribute hands-on science activities, provided workshops for more than 800 Montana children, established an exhibit-sharing network and toured its popular Science Learning Tent to festivals, fairs and powwows across the state.

For more information, go online to <http://www.umt.edu/spectrum>, call Holly Truitt at 406-243-4828 or e-mail holly.truitt@umontana.edu.

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